

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A print auditing network, comprising:

5 a client that originates a print job for printing, the print job including parametric data associated with the print job;

a printer in data communication with the client that is employed to print the print job, the print job being transmitted from the client to the printer;

10 a print job aggregator in data communication with the client and the printer;

a client agent executed in the client to provide a first report of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator; and

15 a print agent executed in the printer to provide a second report of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator, where the print job aggregator stores the first and second reports of the parametric data in a memory.

2. The print auditing network of claim 1, further comprising:

20 a print server in data communication with the client, the printer and the print job aggregator; and

a print server agent executed in the print server to provide a third report of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator.

25 3. The print auditing network of claim 1, wherein the parametric data is included in a header associated with the print job.

30 4. The print auditing network of claim 2, wherein the parametric data is included in a header associated with the print job.

5. The print auditing network of claim 4, wherein a globally unique identifier is associated with each of the first, second, and third reports of the parametric data and the globally unique identifier is the same in the first, second and third reports.

5

6. The print auditing network of claim 4, wherein:

the client agent provides the first report of the parametric data to the print job aggregator by transmitting a copy of the header of the print job to the print job aggregator before the print job is transmitted from the client to the print server;

10

the print server agent provides the third report of the parametric data to the print job aggregator by transmitting a copy of the header to the print job aggregator before the print job is transmitted to the printer;

the printer agent provides the second report of the parametric data to the print job aggregator by transmitting the header to the print job aggregator after the print job is finished printing.

15

7. The print auditing network of claim 6, wherein:

the client agent is further configured to update the parametric data in the header of the print job;

20

the printer server is further configured to update the parametric data in the header of the print job; and

the printer agent is further configured to update the parametric data in the header of the print job.

25

30

8. A method for auditing a print job within a network, the method comprising:

originating a print job in a client to be printed;

associating parametric data with the print job, the parametric data describing

5 the print job;

transmitting a first report of the parametric data from the client to a print job aggregator;

transmitting the print job from the client to a printer;

printing the print job in the printer; and

10 transmitting a second report of the parametric data from the printer to the print job aggregator after the print job is printed by the printer;

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising updating the parametric  
15 data of the print job in the printer during printing.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein transmitting the print job from the client to the printer further comprises:

20 transmitting the print job from the client to a print server that is in data communication with the client;

transmitting the print job from the print server to the printer that is in data communication with the print server; and

25 the method further comprising transmitting a third report of the parametric data from the print server to the print job aggregator.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising including the parametric data in a header associated with the print job.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the first report of parametric data, the second report of parametric data, and the third report of parametric data include the same globally unique identifier.

5

13. The method of claim 12, wherein:

the transmitting of the first report of the parametric data from the client to the print job aggregator further comprises transmitting a copy of the header of the print job from the client to the print job aggregator; and

10 the transmitting of the third report of the parametric data from the print server to the print job aggregator further comprises transmitting a copy of the header of the print job from the print server to the print job aggregator; and

the transmitting of the second report of the parametric data from the printer to the print job aggregator further comprises transmitting a copy of the header of the print job to the print job aggregator.

15

14. The method of claim 13, further comprises recording the use of consumables employed in the printing of a document of the print job prior to transmitting the second report of the parametric data to the print job aggregator.

20

15. A program embodied in a computer readable medium, comprising:  
code that originates a print job in a client to be printed;

25 code that associates parametric data with the print job, the parametric data describing the print job; and

code that transmits a report of the parametric data from the client to a print job aggregator.

30

16. The program embodied in the computer readable medium of claim 15, further comprising code that associates the parametric data with a globally unique identifier.

17. The program embodied in the computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the parametric data is included in a header associated with the print job.

5 18. The program embodied in the computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein a globally unique identifier is associated with the first report of the parametric data transmitted to the print job aggregator.

10 19. A program embodied in a computer readable medium, comprising:  
code that identifies parametric data associated with a print job received from a client, the parametric data describing the print job;  
code that updates the parametric data received from the client;  
code that transmits a report of parametric data to a print job aggregator; and  
15 code that transmits the print job to a printer.

20 20. The program embodied in the computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein the parametric data is included in a header associated with the print job.

25 21. The program embodied in the computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein a globally unique identifier is associated with the report of the parametric data transmitted to the print job aggregator.

22. A program embodied in a computer readable medium, comprising:  
code that identifies parametric data associated with a print job, the parametric data describing the print job;  
30 code that updates the parametric data that is subject to change based on a printing of the print job by the printer; and  
code that transmits a report of parametric data from the printer to a print job aggregator after the print job is printed by the printer.

23. The program embodied in the computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the parametric data is included in a header associated with the print job.

5

24. The program embodied in the computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein a globally unique identifier is associated with the report of the parametric data transmitted to the print job aggregator.

10

25. A print auditing network, comprising:  
a client that originates a print job for printing, the print job including parametric data associated with the print job;  
15 a printer in data communication with the client that is employed to print the print job, the print job being transmitted from the client to the printer;  
a print job aggregator in data communication with the client and the printer;  
means in the client for providing a first report of the parametric data  
20 associated with the print job to the print job aggregator; and  
means in the printer for providing a second report of the parametric data associated with the print job to the print job aggregator, where the print job aggregator stores the first and second reports of the parametric data in a memory.

25

26. The print auditing network of claim 25, further comprising:  
a print server in data communication with the client, the printer and the print job aggregator; and  
means in the print server for providing a third report of the parametric data  
30 associated with the print job to the print job aggregator.

27. The print auditing network of claim 25, wherein the parametric data is included in a header associated with the print job.

28. The print auditing network of claim 26, wherein the parametric data is included in a header associated with the print job.

5

29. The print auditing network of claim 28, wherein a globally unique identifier is associated with each of the first, second, and third reports of the parametric data and the globally unique identifier is the same in the first, second and third reports.

10